

Council President and District 2 Council Member
NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS
#PeoplePoweredGovernment



October 21, 2023

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. Like you, I'm concerned about the issues that many of us face in District 2, across Oakland, the Bay Area, and even the nation. **Community safety is my top priority.** I share your concerns and frustrations, and want you to know that your City is working hard and collaboratively for a safer Oakland. I remain committed to [comprehensive safety solutions that I shared in my August newsletter](#):

1. Addressing the root causes of violence and poverty,
2. Preventing violence, retaliation and recidivism, and
3. Improving response times to crises and solving more crimes.

This newsletter shares some work that I have been leading with the City of Oakland and many of our neighbors, businesses, and other local leaders to help make our neighborhoods safe and healthy for everyone, especially our elders and children. I'd love to hear from you and am sharing my upcoming office hours and ways to get in touch with my team. I hope you'll find this information helpful, and I hope you'll get involved in some of these efforts. Our community needs everyone's voice and contributions, and I look forward to working with you to serve the people in our Oakland community.

Sincerely,

Nikki Fortunato Bas
Oakland City Council President & District 2 Councilmember



P.S. — For this and past newsletters, scan the QR Code to the left to visit our [Newsletter Archive](#).

City Council Updates

At our **October 3rd Council meeting**, the City Council took these actions:

- **created an action plan for improvements and investments in our 9-1-1 system.** The Administration and Council detailed a plan to improve 9-1-1 staffing, implement and improve IT infrastructure, update an emergency operations plan, and invest an additional \$2.5 million. [Read more here in the Oaklandside.](#)
- **continued critical violence prevention programs**, focusing on group and gang violence, gender-based violence, community healing and employment. I'm grateful to my budget team for adding funds to our two-year budget in June to make this possible, and to Mayor Thao and Public Safety Chair Rebecca Kaplan who identified cost savings to continue the employment programs. Thanks to the many people who shared your views and stories with us. [Read more here in the East Bay Times.](#)

At our **October 17th Council meeting**, the City Council took these actions:

- **Approved Corridor Safety Ambassadors Grants.** With \$1 million that I added to our budget in June, Council approved grants to support community ambassadors and safety measures in our high priority commercial corridors with the highest levels of crime, employment, and tax revenue — Downtown, Fruitvale and Hegenberger. District 2 neighborhoods are included in the Downtown grant. I will continue to work with other D2 commercial corridors on neighborhood-specific safety measures. In addition, my direct community grant to Restore Oakland will support organizing small business corridors without a merchants organization to make business and corridor improvements in collaboration with our City departments. Learn more about community ambassadors here:
 - [Are Oakland community ambassadors making a difference?](#), Oaklandside
 - [A day in the life of an Oakland Chinatown community ambassador.](#) Oaklandside
- **Approved Automated License Plate Reader Cameras.** Mayor Thao secured \$1.2 million from the State to install a new network of 300 automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras throughout Oakland. These cameras would allow law enforcement to identify and track vehicles involved in criminal activity, in real time, using license plate, make, model, color, and unique features of a vehicle. At the Council meeting, I added measures to help track the effectiveness of these cameras in reducing and solving crimes, including launching a Transparency Portal when the program begins and reporting to the Council's Public Safety Committee after three months. [Read more here in the San Francisco Chronicle.](#)
- **Extended the Flex Streets Program Public Street Closures.** Many businesses have shared positive feedback about the City's Flex Streets Program, and Councilmember Fife sponsored legislation to reinstate the program until December 31, 2025. This will facilitate public street closures for restaurant, retail, café, parklet, and other businesses to close and use public right-of-ways to encourage public safety, business development, and healthy outdoor use and enjoyment of public spaces.

Law Enforcement Updates

In case you missed these updates, the **City and OPD are focused on improving response and solving more crimes:**

- **Meet our OPD Area Commander, Capt. Alan Yu.** On August 11th, I was pleased to join the *OPD Awards and Promotions Ceremony* and congratulate Captain Alan Yu on his promotion to Captain and Area 3 Commander. He has served with OPD for 20 years. He and I have already worked together through his prior role leading the Special Victims Unit where we collaborated on addressing human trafficking; and in his volunteer role mentoring Asian youth with the Asian Youth Services Committee. Many neighbors have been getting to know him in our Neighborhood Council meetings.
- **[Foot patrols are back in our business districts](#)** thanks in part to a 3-year federal grant. At our September Grand Lake Neighbors meeting, we welcomed Ofc. Mike Cooper who is patrolling Lakeshore and Grand Avenues; and at the Lincoln Summer Nights Mid Autumn Festival, we re-connected with Ofc. Tony Chang who is patrolling Chinatown, a beat he previously had for four years. These teams across the entire city are building relationships with businesses and neighbors in our commercial corridors to help boost community safety.
- **CHP is patrolling 2 days a week on local highways** such as International and Hegenberger. Having a CHP Sergeant and 6 Officers on our streets means OPD can focus on violent crimes in other critical areas.
- **Targeted enforcement has led to the following arrests:**
 - On September 21, it was announced that a [national partnership with the U.S. Marshalls led to 137 arrests in Oakland](#), including 31 individuals allegedly involved in homicides, 20 related to assault, 4 for sex offenses, 27 for robberies and 26 for weapon offenses.
 - On September 28, Mayor Thao and OPD announced an expansion of the Ceasefire Strategy which led to the [arrest of 10 suspected gang members they said were connected to car jackings, armed robberies and car burglaries](#).
 - On October 3, OPD and Mayor Thao announced that [7 people were arrested in an undercover auto burglary operation](#). The Alameda County District Attorney's Office charged 6 of the individuals for their involvement in the crimes.
 - On October 13, OPD announced [recent arrests of individuals connected to armed robberies, car jackings, and convenience store robberies](#), including incidents in District 2 neighborhoods.

Traffic Safety Updates

- I recently met with OakDOT and AC Transit about the **"Quick Build" project along International Blvd. to increase traffic safety**. Please stay tuned for a community meeting this Fall to hear more about the projects which include interventions in District 2 corridors where traffic injuries and fatalities have occurred.
- I have also met with the family of Maia, a 4 year old whose life was lost after a bike collision on Lakeshore Ave. After advocating together for a near-term solution, [OakDOT has agreed to create protected bike lanes on Lakeshore — years ahead of schedule](#), as it continues to equitably address safety in our High Injury Network.
- In September, I joined City leaders to announce [lower speed limits of 20 mph in 11 commercial districts](#) as part of California Pedestrian Safety Month.
- [Gov. Gavin Newsom signed AB 645, which allows 6 cities including Oakland to test speed cameras during a five-year pilot program](#). The bill sets out a collaborative model based on stakeholder input and community engagement to ensure appropriate impact mitigation measures for low-income residents of equity priority communities and strong privacy protections. I've advocated for the passage of this bill along with Oakland's Bike & Pedestrian

Advisory Commission and thank the Governor for allowing Oakland to pilot alternatives to police traffic stops to enforce speed limits.

City Resources

- **MACRO Alternative Crisis Responders:** MACRO teams in the Fire Department respond to calls about homelessness, some behavioral or mental health calls, noise complaints, and people appearing drunk (and nonviolent) in public. For non-violent issues, call MACRO at 911 or email macro@oaklandca.gov.
- **Sideshow Tip Line:** Sideshows and related dangerous driving behaviors including “donuts” are a significant safety and quality of life concern for Oakland residents, as well as the region. If you have information about illegal sideshows, send OPD a tip at our non-emergency email, sideshowtips@oaklandca.gov or call (510) 777-3333.
- **OAK311:** Send requests to the city for routine maintenance and urgent infrastructure issues, i.e. potholes, abandoned vehicles, illegal dumping. If the request is not addressed, follow up with our staff via email and share the Service Request Number in your confirmation so we can ask 311 staff to address the issue. www.oaklandca.gov/services/oak311. Call 311 or (510) 615-5566.
- **Traffic Safety Request Program:** Check out OakDOT’s processes on [submitting requests](#) for improvements such as speed bumps, traffic signs, etc. www.oaklandca.gov/topics/traffic-safety-requests

Get Involved:

Oakland's **Neighborhood Councils** serve as platforms for open dialogue and collective decision-making around neighborhood priorities with City staff and Council offices. Learn more here: www.oaklandca.gov/topics/neighborhood-councils

- **Jack London** Neighborhood Council (Beat 1X) meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:15pm.
- Friends of **Cleveland Heights** Neighborhood Council (Beat 15Y) meets on the 2nd Tuesdays at 7pm.
- Neighborhood Coalition for Peace & Community / **Bella Vista** Neighborhood Council (Beats 17XY) meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm.
- Greater **San Antonio** Neighborhood Council (Beats 18XY & 19X, includes Clinton/Little Saigon) meets on the 2nd Wednesday of odd months at 6:30pm.
- **Grand Lake** Neighbors (Beats 14Y & 16X) meets on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7pm.

Connect with Nikki and her team:

- **Contact** Councilmember Bas and her District 2 team at NFBas@oaklandca.gov or 510-238-7002 and www.oaklandca.gov/officials/nikki-fortunato-bas
- Councilmember Bas hosts **Office Hours** by appointment. Please use [this form](#) to schedule a 15-minute 1:1 appointment with her or her staff.
- Join a **City Council meeting:** View our agendas and ways to share your comments at oakland.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.
- [Sign up for our District 2 newsletter.](#)

